Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
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SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

KNOTHOLE VILLAGE!

FOR YEARS, IT SERVED AS A BASE OF OPERATIONS TO THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF PLANET MOBIUS--

--AND ALSO AS A HOME. BUT WITH THE ULTIMATE ANNIHILATION OF THE EVIL TECHNO-TYRANT DOCTOR IVO ROBOTNIK, THE REBELS HAVE RETURNED TO MOBOTROPOLIS--

--THE CITY FROM WHICH THEY WERE CAST OUT SO LONG AGO.

AND WHAT OF KNOTHOLE?

SINCE ITS JAUNT INTO ITS OWN TEMPORAL ZONE THREE HOURS INTO THE FUTURE*, THE VILLAGERS ARE NO LONGER COMFORTABLE LIVING THERE. WHY?

* IT HAPPENED IN SONIC ARCHIVES VOL.13 -- ED

FOR ONE THING, AS YOU MOVE TOWARDS THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE VILLAGE, AN INVISIBLE BARRIER KEEPS YOU FROM THE REST OF MOBIUS ON ALL SIDES.

ANOTHER IS, THE ONLY WAY IN OR OUT OF KNOTHOLE'S TEMPORAL ZONE IS THROUGH THE GREAT OAK SLIDE. IT MAKES TRAVEL BACK AND FORTH, ESPECIALLY WITH SUPPLIES, THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT.

NOW, SOME SAY IT'S A GHOST TOWN, BUT THEY'RE WRONG.

THERE IS ONE FORMER MEMBER OF THE RESISTANCE WHO STILL EMBRACES ITS FAMILIAR FOREST SURROUNDINGS--

--ONE WHO HAS BECOME SO ACCUSTOMED TO THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR, THAT LEAVING HIS CITY BEHIND WAS THE ONLY REAL ALTERNATIVE. BUT--

--MAY SOON FIND OUT HE'S ONLY--

RUNNING TO STAND STILL

MEEP MEEP MEEP

IT APPEARS MY DEVICE IS DONE FOR!

SONIC! HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DETERMINE YOUR MAXIMUM SPEED IF YOU ACCELERATE TOO QUICKLY? YOU KNOW IT WRECKS THE EQUIPMENT EVERY TIME!

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU ARE YOU REBELLING AGAINST?

HOLY SWISS CHEESE UNCLE CHUCK! YOUR INSTRUMENTS ARE GOING--

YES, I KNOW, TAILS-- HAYWIRE!

YEAH... COOL!

IT'S WORSE THAN THAT, MY YOUTHFUL FRIEND--

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WHADDAYA GOT?

BOY...

...TALK ABOUT ATTITUDE!

CERTAINLY NOT GRATITUDE! Hrrmmph!

"YOU WOULD THINK THAT LEAVING THE BIG CITY WOULD ENABLE MY NEPHEW TO UNWIND!"

FELLOW MOBIANS! LOYAL CITIZENS! I'M GLAD TO SEE ALL OF YOU GATHERED HERE TODAY!

"AFTER ALL, ISN'T THAT THE REASON WHY HE CAME BACK HERE?"

"HEAR ME AND KNOW THAT THIS DAY WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR COURAGE AND HEROISM!"

SURE, THERE WERE TIMES WHEN WE WERE FRIGHTENED...

...UNCERTAIN WHETHER ROBOTNIK WOULD CLOSE HIS FIST ABOUT US IN AN IRON GRIP TO SQUEEZE THE VERY HUMANITY OUT OF OUR SOULS!

YES, THEY WERE CHAOTIC TIMES, BUT NOW IT IS TIME TO ESTABLISH ORDER!

I GIVE YOU DOCTOR QUACK — OUR ROYAL PHYSICIAN — WHOSE HEALING SKILLS WILL HELP PUT OUR KINGDOM ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY...

... ROTOR — WHOSE TECHNOLOGICAL TALENTS CAN TURN ROBOTNIK'S WEAPONS OF WAR INTO ENGINES OF PROGRESS...

...GEOFFREY ST. JOHN — WHOSE OWN SENSE OF JUSTICE WILL SET THE STANDARD FOR THAT OF THE ENTIRE STATE...

... AND SONIC — WHOSE SPEED AND POPULARITY WILL ROUND OUT THE MEMBERSHIP OF A NEW COUNCIL...

...DEDICATED TO RESTORING ORDER!

HIP! HIP! HOORAY!

WE WILL NO LONGER BE KNOWN AS KNOTHOLE VILLAGERS! FROM TODAY ONWARDS WE SHALL BE MOBIANS OF MOBOTROPOLIS ONCE AGAIN. TOMORROW blah blah blah blah blah blah...

MEANWHILE, MILES AWAY FROM KNOTHOLE VILLAGE, A ROYAL AIRSHIP ROCKETS TO A LOCATION FAR FROM THE CONFINES OF SONIC'S MIND--

--THE DEVIL'S GULAG!!

HIDDEN BY A DENSE BANK OF STEAM CLOUDS FROM THE BOILING OCEANS THAT SURROUND IT, THE PRISON COMPLEX SITS FOREBODINGLY ON THE MILE-HIGH ROCKY CRAG THAT PASSES FOR AN ISLAND.

LIKE SOME SKYBOUND SUBMARINE, THE AIRSHIP GENTLY BREAKS THE CLOUD BANK'S SURFACE AS SHE DELIVERS HER FELONIOUS CARGO.

AND WHO ARE THE CRIMINALS IN QUESTION? LET'S FIND OUT...

LIEUTENANT SMILEY! COMMANDER FLEMING! ISN'T THAT WARLORD KODOS? WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED TO HIM?

IT'S QUITE A *STORY*, BUT IF YOU'VE GOT A *MINUTE*, I'LL TELL YOU...

HEY, SONIC... WAKE UP... SONIC...

SONIC!

YIKES!

LIKE, MAN, TAILS! WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO DO? SCARE THE SPEED OUTTA ME?

I DIDN'T WANT TO WAKE YOU FROM YOUR SLEEP, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE TEST?

I WASN'T SLEEPING. I WAS REMEMBERING ...Oh, GREAT. WHO INVITED HIM?

SONIC! WHO DO YOU THINK IS RUNNING THE--

I WAS BEING SARCASTIC TAILS!

NOW, REMEMBER, THESE HEADPHONES ARE PROTEC--

LIKE, I DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW THAT!

THIS DEVICE IS VERY FRAG--

SURE, SURE.

AND REMEMBER--

--TO BE CAREFUL. Hrrrmpph! GONE!

UNCLE CHUCK?

YES TAILS--

WHAT DOES "SAR-KAS-TIC" MEAN?

"IT MEANS MY NEPHEW HAS A LOT ON HIS MIND."

"THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS..."

HE'S OFF! AND AS HE MAKES HIS WAY ACROSS THE GREAT PLAINS OF MOBIUS, AN AZURE FIGURE RACING AT HYPER SPEEDS--

--HIS MEMORY REEL HITS REWIND AND PAUSES IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT-PAST.

I'VE GIVEN IT MUCH THOUGHT, PRINCESS. THE DECISION WAS DIFFICULT TO MAKE, BUT I'VE DECIDED THAT ONLY YOU COULD HELP OUR PLIGHT.

I THINK YOUR IDEA IS BRILLANT!

SINCE MOBOTROPOLIS IS TOO CROWDED, KNOTHOLE WOULD BE THE IDEAL PLACE FOR THE ROBOT-ICIZED MOBIANS TO LIVE UNTIL WE FIND A WAY FOR EVERYONE TO LIVE IN HARMONY.

WOW! A REAL ROBOTVILLE, AMY!

THAT RULES COMPLETELY!

I'LL JUST HAVE TO OKAY THE MOVE WITH MY DAD.

DON'T SWEAT IT, UNC! KING ACORN IS A RIGHTEOUS MONARCH! IT'LL HAPPEN PDQ!*

I HOPE SO...

*PRETTY DARNED QUICK! -- EDITOR

SCANT MINUTES LATER...

SAY, WHERE'D EVERYBODY TAKE OFF TO?

BOTH SALLY AND YOUR UNCLE LEFT FOR CASTLE ACORN--

--TO PETITION THE KING

Oh, GREAT! JUST GREAT! CAN'T A HEDGEHOG EVEN PUT ON A FRESH PAIR OF RUNNING SHOES WITHOUT EVERYONE GOING OUT AND TRYING TO CHANGE THE WORLD WITHOUT HIM?

HUH?

HE'S EXAGGERATING!

PERHAPS HE IS.

FOR STOPPING SOME SEVERAL YARDS AWAY FROM THE KING'S CASTLE, SONIC WITNESSES A SIGHT THAT SINKS EVEN HIS, THE SWIFTEST OF SPIRITS.

HE DOESN'T NEED TO HEAR WHAT THE PRINCESS SAYS TO KNOW HER FATHER'S RESPONSE. HE CAN SEE IT ON HIS UNCLE'S FACE.

YES, THE WORLD IS CHANGING...

...BUT IS IT FOR THE BETTER?

THE GULAG...

IT'S SO HARD TO BELIEVE IT EVEN AFTER BEING TOLD! HOW DID KODOS EVER MANAGE TO *ESCAPE* FROM THE *ZONE OF SILENCE*?

YOU *HEARD* THE LIEUTENANT...

"HE WAS A PAWN TO THE EVIL *IXIS NAUGUS*. WHEN IXIS *ESCAPED* THE ZONE, KODOS WAS *FREED* TOO."*

EH? WHAT'S THIS? IXIS NAUGUS? *KING ACORN'S* FORMER ROYAL *WIZARD*? RETURNED?

THIS IS THE MOST INTERESTING THING THAT'S HAPPENED SINCE THE *BOSS* WAS ULTIMATELY *ANNIHILATED*.

TELL OL' SMILEY MORE, YOU FLAT-TAILED FREAKS...

* SEE THE SOON-TO-BE-CLASSIC, SONIC #53 -- EDITOR

Oh, WELL, SO MUCH FOR THIS HIGHLY EXPENSIVE... SAND-ENCRUSTED, WORTHLESS PIECE OF SCRAP METAL!

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING SO BLINDLY, LAD? YOU'RE BARELY PAYING ATTENTION TO THE TEST!

DO YOU THINK WE'LL EVER REALLY KNOW HOW FAST SONIC IS, UNCLE CHUCK?

BETTER CHANCE OF DETERMINING THAT THAN OF TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S EATING AT HIM TAILS!

NOW, LET'S SEE HERE. THE INFLUX HYDROPROPELLERATORS SHOULD ACCOUNT FOR WATER RESISTANCE AND -- Ah! PERFECT!

"ON YOUR MARK..."

"...GET SET..."

"...GO!"

AND, YES, HIS MIND DOES INDEED GO... BACK TO A FEW DAYS PAST.

SO THAT'S PRETTY MUCH THE *SCORE*, GOOD BUDDY!

NOW, LET ME GET THIS *STRAIGHT*, ROTOR...

YOU WANNA TAKE A LITTLE *TIME* OFF TO LOOK FOR YOUR *FOLKS* WHO'VE BEEN *MISSING* SINCE THIS WHOLE *MESS* WITH ROBUTTNIK STARTED... BUT THE PRINCESS SAID *NO*?

ROTOR, *BELIEVE* YOU ME WHEN I SAY THAT I KNOW *EXACTLY* HOW YOU FEEL. LET *ME* HANDLE THIS.

I *KNEW* YOU WOULD, GOOD BUDDY I *KNEW* YOU WOULD.

WELL, IF A GUY CAN'T FOLLOW HIS *HEART*, WHAT CAN HE *FOLLOW*?

HEY! TALL, DARK AND *GRUESOME*, LET ME IN.

BUT, PRINCESS! THERE'S NO WAY THAT WE CAN GET A *HOSPITAL* UP AND RUNNING IN TWO DAYS *FLAT!*

WE'LL HAVE TO *FIND* A WAY!

SAL, WE'VE *GOTTA* TALK ABOUT ROTOR, AND BEFORE YOU GO TELLIN' ME I'M WAY OFF-BASE, LET ME JUST SAY *ONE* THING...

HE'S RIGHT, SALLY! THERE'S ALSO NO REAL WAY TO HAVE A *MAN-AT-ARMS* ON EVERY STREET CORNER TO *PROTECT* THE ROBOT-ICIZED MOBIANS FROM *CRAZED MOBS!*

YOU OF *ALL* PEOPLE SHOULD *KNOW* WHAT IT'S LIKE TO WANT TO FIND YOUR *PARENTS!*

I DO, SONIC!

BUT I *ALSO* KNOW ABOUT DUTY AND SACRIFICE. LOOK AT OUR CITY IN *RUINS.*

WE NEED ROTOR'S *TECHNOLOGICAL SKILLS* NOW MORE THAN EVER IF WE'RE EVER GOING TO GET BACK ON *TRACK!*

TELL HIM IT WON'T TAKE *TOO* MUCH LONGER. I *PROMISE.*

SO, HOW'D IT GO?

WELL, I... Uhh...

THE GULAG...

...AND THIS ONE I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF.

I KNOW! HER NAME IS UMA ARACHNIS, BUT BEYOND THAT AND THE FACT THAT SHE'S A NINJA WARRIOR, SHE'S A MYSTERY TO EVERYONE!

WELL, WE DO KNOW THAT SHE'S ANOTHER OF IXIS' FLUNKIES AND THAT MEANS SHE'S DEFINITELY BAD NEWS!

"NO MATTER HOW WICKED SHE WAS, NO ONE DESERVES TO BE FROZEN IN A CRYSTAL STATE!"

IT'S HER OWN FAULT! SHE AND KODOS SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT NO GOOD COULD BEFALL THEM WHILE WORKING WITH AN EVIL WIZARD LIKE IXIS.

Hmm... WELL, IF IXIS NAUGUS HAS INDEED RETURNED... AND THERE'S POWER TO BE EXPLOITED... I HAVE TO FIND IT!

WELL, WE'VE PERFORMED TESTS ON *AIR, LAND* AND *SEA*... LET'S SEE HOW YOU HOLD UP IN AN *ARTIFICIAL ENVIRONMENT!*

AN *ARTIFICIAL* ENVIRONMENT? I I THOUGHT I'D ALREADY *BEEN* IN ONE.

WHAT EVER DO YOU MEAN?

WELL, TELLING SOMEBODY THEIR FOLKS ARE *DEAD* WHEN THEY'RE REALLY NOT IS SORT OF LIKE MAKING *THEM* LIVE IN AN UNREAL-- PHONEY-- FALSE--*ARTIFICIAL* WORLD.

OOH, BOY.

THIS

IS NOT

COOL.

BEFORE HIS UNCLE HAS A CHANCE TO REPLY, SONIC STARTS THE TEST FOR HIM.

AND AS HIS FEET RACE FORWARD, HIS MIND RACES BACKWARDS IN TIME...

TO WHERE?

MOBOTROPOLIS.

TO WHEN?

A FEW HOURS AGO.

HOW?

DON'T ASK KEEP READING...

Yawn

...SINCE I'M FORCED TO SIT ON THIS DUMB COUNCIL, MAYBE I SHOULD PETITION TO RENAME THIS TOWN "DULLSVILLE"!

SONIC!

ROSIE! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

"RAARGH! I'M THE EVIL Dr. ROBOTNIK AND I'M GONNA METALIZE YOU!"

RUN!

PLAYING OF COURSE! LOOK AT THEM! THEY'RE OFF ON SOME EXCITING ADVENTURE!

DON'T SAY THAT WORD!

WHAT WORD? ADVENTURE?

I TOLD YOU NOT TO SAY IT!

WHY? WHAT'S THE MATTER?

WELL, I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT EVERYTHING STINKS NOW THAT ROBOTNIK IS GONE!

WHAT?! SONIC, ARE YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT?

WELL, AT LEAST WHEN BUTTNIK WAS STILL *ALIVE* I FELT LIKE I WAS MAKING A *DIFFERENCE*.

NOW I *FEEL* LIKE MY HANDS ARE *TIED* WHILE MY SHOELACES *AREN'T*!

THAT'S *NOT* SUCH A GOOD COMBO FOR *YOU*!

NO, IT'S NOT.

HOW CAN WE *REBUILD* THE CITY IF WE CAN'T EVEN STOP LONG ENOUGH TO *REALIZE* THAT EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN *PROBLEMS*?

WELL, I *UNDERSTAND* HOW YOU FEEL...

YOU *DO*?

SURE! WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, MY COUSIN & SALLY'S MENTOR JULAYLA USED TO TELL ME ONE IMPORTANT THING...

THE *ONLY* DIFFERENCE IS THE ONE YOU MAKE.

DO YOU *UNDERSTAND* SORT OF?

THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THE ONE YOU MAKE... THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THE ONE YOU MAKE...

YEAH! I THINK I *DO*!

WHERE TO *NOW*?

WHERE ELSE? TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE! THANKS, ROSIE!

NOT THE GULAG...

...BUT SOMEWHERE CLOSE ENOUGH TO IT THAT THE REMOTE-CONTROLLED RADIO SIGNAL EMITTED FROM BENEATH SNIVELY'S THUMB...

...HAS A DEFINITE EFFECT!

THE EGGBOTS HAVE ARRIVED!

PROGRAMMED TO TRACK UNIQUE ENERGY SIGNATURES, THEY ROCKET TOWARDS THE HEAVENS TO DO THE BIDDING OF THEIR INCARCERATED MASTER--FIND THE WIZARD, IXIS NAUGUS!

THE GREAT FOREST...

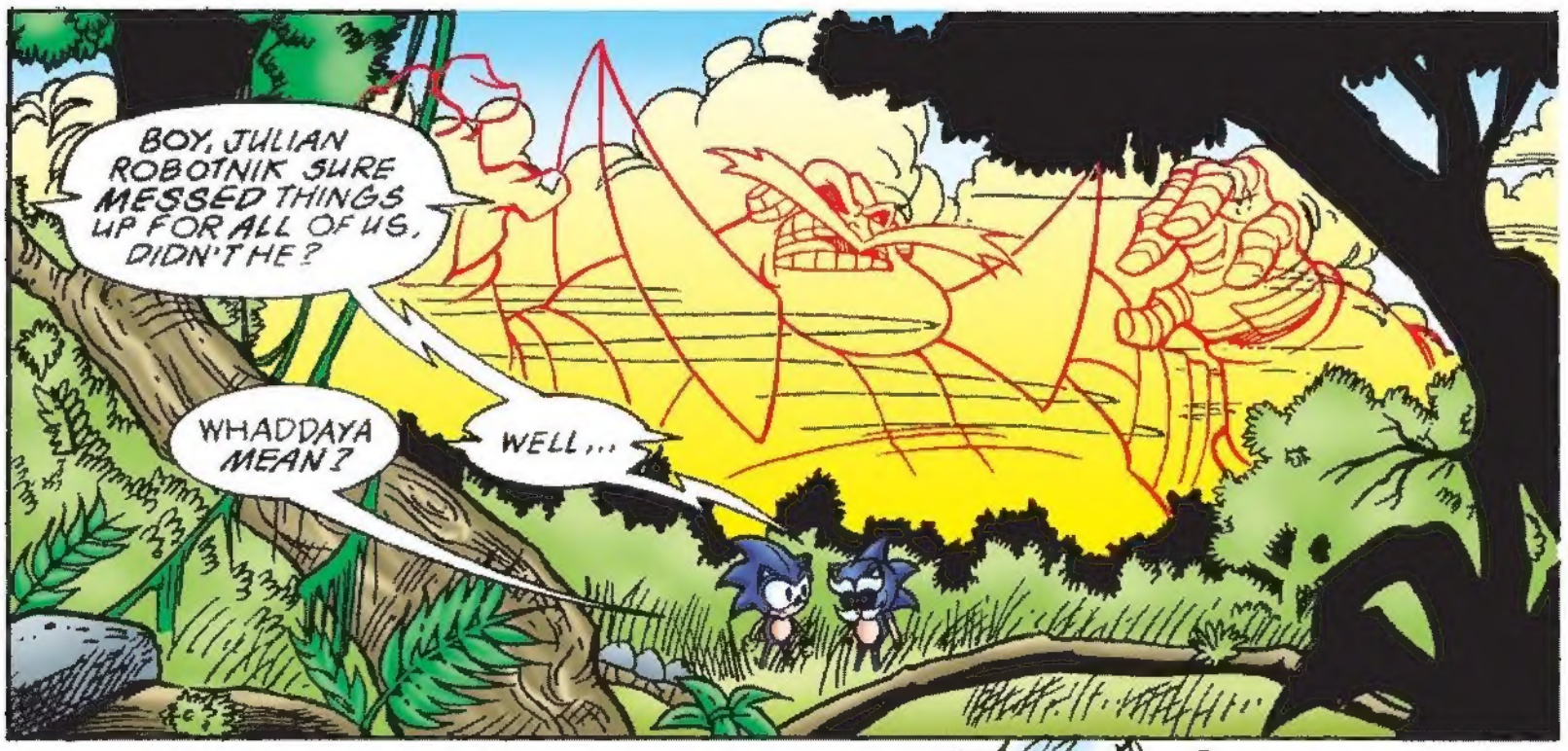
SONIC...

...WE HAVE TO TALK! HEDGEHOG TO HEDGEHOG!

AND I DON'T MEAN ABOUT YOUR TOP SPEED...

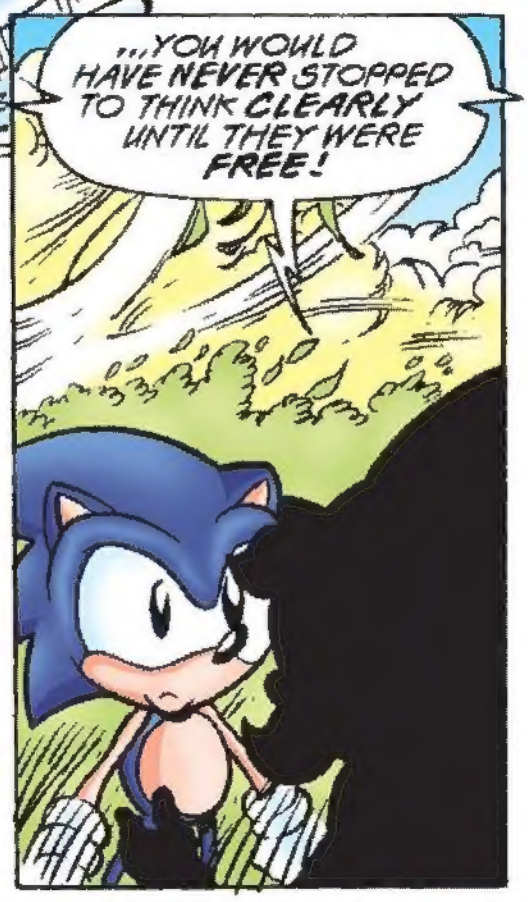
...OR WHETHER YOU CAN RUN ON LAND, SEA OR AIR.

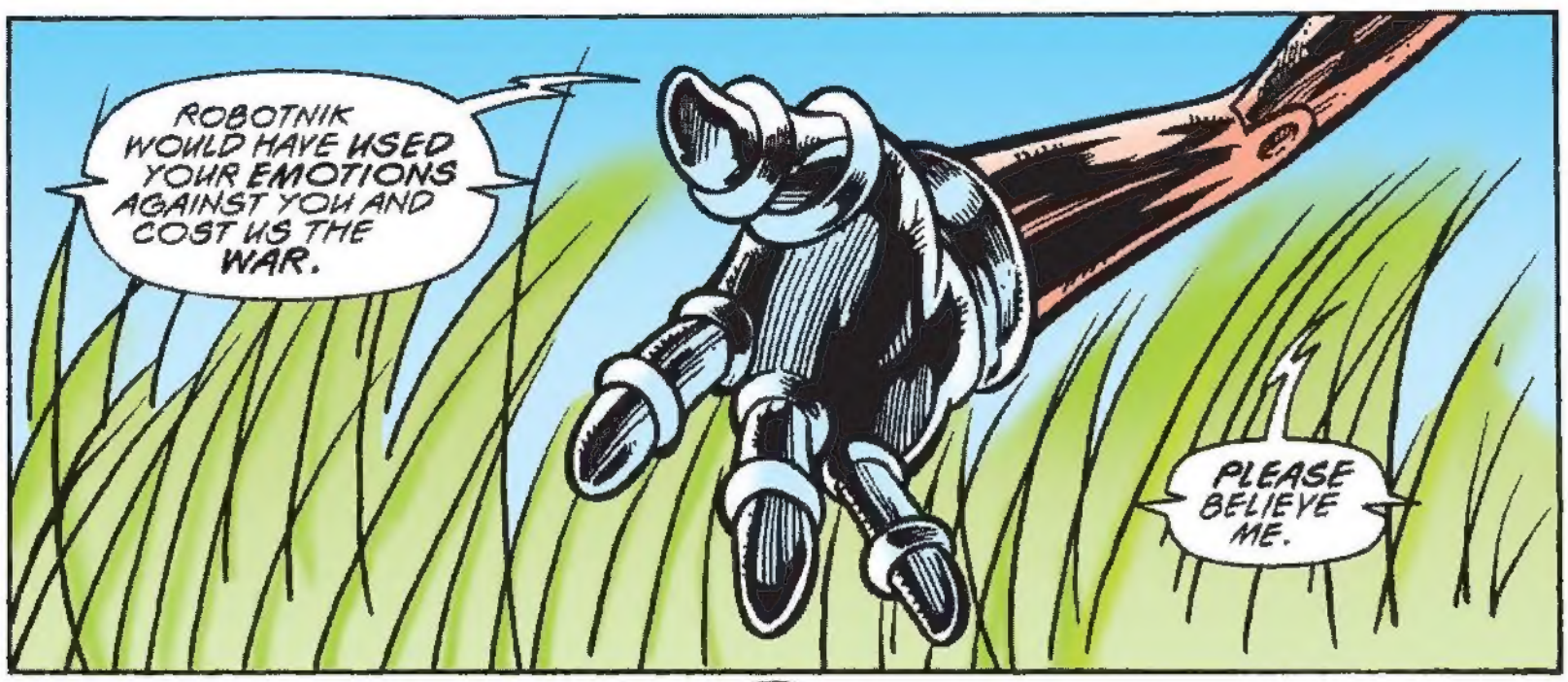
"I WANT TO TALK ABOUT... YOUR FOLKS...


BOY, JULIAN ROBOTNIK SURE MESSED THINGS UP FOR ALL OF US, DIDN'T HE?
WHADDAYA MEAN?
WELL...

CRASH!
THUMP!
DON'T YOU SEE? IF YOU HAD KNOWN THAT YOUR PARENTS WERE ALIVE...

SNICKER SNICKER


...YOU WOULD HAVE NEVER STOPPED TO THINK CLEARLY UNTIL THEY WERE FREE!


ROBOTNIK WOULD HAVE USED YOUR EMOTIONS AGAINST YOU AND COST US THE WAR.
PLEASE BELIEVE ME.

I DO... I DO. IT'S ALL PART OF MAKING A *DIFFERENCE.*

SAY, WHY THE STRONG *BREEZE* ALL OF A SUDDEN?

HOLY HANNAH!

WHAT IN TARNATION?!

SONIC! COME IN SONIC!

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN? WAS YOUR COMMUNI-CATOR *BROKEN?*

Uhh... YEAH, BUT IT'S *FIXED* NOW!

GOOD! WE *NEED* YOU BACK HERE *PRONTO!*

NEXT ISSUE: KHAN!